

1/7/70

Dear Charlie,

Hearing from you is a delight. I had been disappointed at your silence, for as you know, I like you because you befriended me when I needed befriending and because I am fond of Jamie. There has been an enormous amount of what is at its very best backbiting and at its worst libel, and I had finally decided that it had influenced you, too. The only one in LA from whom I ever hear is Art, and I feel of him as I have felt, as a brother. In fact, he phoned me just yesterday.

Of the many disappointments I have had, Los Angeles is the greatest. People of whom you'd never suspect it have ~~me~~ even beaten me out of money. The manufactures that were being broadcast are beyond belief - and they are, with no exception, not only false but fabricated. I never went to Los Angeles with the prospect of personal profit, never had any hope of it and, in fact, as Hal can tell you, never even got the return of my expenses when it was promised. When to this is added the most rotten vilification, perhaps you can understand how I feel. Because so many of the people are so unusually well ~~informed~~ endowed, it is even more disagreeable. I finally decided that aside from those characteristics over which no one has control, it comes from a combination of my directness, my refusal to spend time being just diplomatic, paying obeisance, etc., and their absolute refusal to pay the slightest attention to the warnings I gave them about N.O. and its ~~potential~~ potential. The trip on which we met was one on which, with luck, I might break even (and I haven't, for the San Diego people never paid my expenses or even for the books they got to sell). It was for two purposes: to bring people up to date on what I had learned and to try again to alert them to what was by then so clearly inevitable. Having cast themselves as sycophants and blinded to reality, being as bitterly disappointed as they were surprised, I suppose they found it expedient to turn all of this on me. There are several who were glad to do the organizing and proselytizing.

Well, that is past. If I go there again it will be to make a speech for which I'll be paid, and I do not plan to see any of them. There is now little likelihood of such an invitation anyway, for among other things, these same people have been part of ruining out acceptability. What is in the four books I have done and cannot get printed should make the most exciting lectures. But between this record and what Garrison accomplished, no one wants any speeches today.

Hal could not have more than gotten home when you phoned him. He was here last week - before I got my car out (snow).

Paul has copies of all my unprinted works (the complete ones, that is). I have asked him to make them available to a few people and I have also asked him not to make them available to anyone else. The thievery is beyond belief, and I want not only the right to my own work but to be able to control its first use. With your own knowledge of how much has been misused, I think you can understand this. It is okay with me if you want a copy or copies of any one or more of the books, but I must stipulate that you will not show it or reveal its contents to anyone without my okay. Because I believe Hal is getting them, you can save yourself the refoxing cost by borrowing his. I have added to the book you saw and then I did an "addition" half again as large. There is a finale ultimo I have drafted and an appendix that is complete except for a little

annotation. Paul does not yet have these. God, how I wish some of the wealthy people of decent motivation would make it possible for this work to be printed. I think it is so urgent the fact be made available in this new, neo-fascist era. There is so much that should be vital to the blacks, but I am not only white, I am a Jew.

I've done two of the three books I plan on the autopsy and I have the third researched. When I clean up on the enormity of COUP, now a third of a million words without notes and appendix, I'll return to that.

Let me suggest a line of thought to you on N.O. When you call it a "fiasco" I have no argument. It was that. I refused to stay there for the trial, it was so clearly bound to be that -and entirely without need. I accurately predicted their loss and as accurately the reasons for it, which did not make me popular, told them the conditions under which I'd return, and went home and completed a book before they completed the trial. However, they did use some of my materials in the first of the autopsy books, POST MORTEM, with telling effect, particularly when you consider the handicaps under which the trial lawyers labored. Historically, as distinguished from the public-relations effects of the present, that trial was important and will be helpful, for this ~~part~~ part of the trial record. It utterly destroyed the Warren Report, though the papers did not so report it. Believe me, Charlie, that it did do.

If you ever have time other than you should (and should want to) spend with Jamie, I am certain Hal can suggest constructive ways of spending it.

We have entered a new era in this fight, one not well enough understood by some of the few (and the best they are!) still active. It is a period when public relations can accomplish nothing, so there is no good in trying. If we are silent, when we do have something new and worthwhile, it can get attention (and when these books are printed, we'll have what we have never had!). Repetition of what people have heard so often, no matter how effectively done (and Mort, for example, is very effective), pleases only the persuaded. It turns the uncommitted off. Intelligence against us has increased, because we now have a firm grip on short hair. Therefore, when Hal shows you documents, I do suggest you not talk about them to others. The time for that will be when we can unload, with a package. After you read the unprinted books I think you'll understand this better.

I haven't come up for air, but I've slowed down a bit. There is too much to be done and too much that will not get done unless it is done now.

The pictures I took of you and Jamie while I was waiting for Art the morning I left did not come out well. Bad light. If you ever get a good snapshot of the two of you and can spare it, I'd like it.

Warmest to you both, give Jamie and extra good squeeze from me, tell her I am anxious to see how her writing has improved, thanks for writing, and the best of good luck. You also can use some.

Sincerely,